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The work is a "thoroughly Americanized treatise on the subject of personal property," and, with the standard works of Mr. Williams as a foundation, it cannot fail to be of great value to both students and practitioners.

The work of the publishers is well done.

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STUDIES IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. By Émile Boutmy. Translated from the French, by E. M. Dicey. Macmillan & Co., New York, 1891. 12mo. pp. xi and 183. Price, \$1.75.

The title of this book is misleading. It does not treat of constitutional *law* from the standpoint of a lawyer. It is rather a theoretical discussion of constitutional *government*. The book is made up of three essays. The first contains a discussion of the nature and origin of the English constitution. The second deals with the constitutional government of the United States in the same way. The third is a comparison of the conceptions of sovereignty in France, England, and the United States, as illustrated by their constitutions. The book has no place in a law library as such. To those interested in theoretical as distinguished from practical ideas of government, it will prove interesting. Two editions of the original have already appeared in France.

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THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE LAW ANNOTATED. By John Theo. Wentworth. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co., 1891. pp. xxiii and 114.

This little volume is intended, as the preface states, to serve the purpose of conveying to such as are interested in the "act to regulate commerce" a rapid understanding of its practical workings. Each section of the law as amended is followed by short statements, alphabetically arranged, of the points made and constructions given by the Commission relative to the subject-matter of the particular section. Then the volume is completed by copies of the rules and forms adopted by the Commission, a table of cases and subjects, and an index.

This modest attempt to present in a convenient form the Interstate Commerce Law as it stands to-day appears to be carefully worked out. While, except as a foundation upon which to build, the volume can be of little permanent value, since so much of the act still requires judicial construction, yet for a time at least the railway lawyer, rate-maker, and shipper will be likely to find here "a speedy answer to many annoying questions, and a guide to direct him to more elaborate discussion of the subjects upon which light is sought."

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BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY. By Henry Campbell Black, M.A., author of treatises on "Judgments," "Tax Titles," "Constitutional Prohibitions," etc. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 1891. pp. x and 1253.

The first canon of lexicography relates to substance: A dictionary must be comprehensive; the second, to form: A dictionary must be convenient.

In respect to the first consideration, Mr. Black's dictionary will not satisfy those who look for a fairly complete statement in a law dictionary of the more fundamental and well-settled points of law collected under the words to which they relate. Mr. Black indeed distinctly disavows

any intention of compiling a dictionary of such character. He says: "It does not purport to be an epitome or compilation of the body of the law."

Agreeably to Mr. Black's plan we find the definitions brief, lists of authorities not numerous, and examples rare. On the other hand, the comprehensiveness of the work in respect to the number of words and phrases defined would elicit praise from the most exacting and give the work high value. The aim was to include all words defined in any law dictionary, and this, we believe, has been done.

In respect to the second consideration, assuming that the sole function of a law dictionary is to define, this work stands the tests of form. In accuracy of definition and in style it compares favorably with the established lexicons. Its large size is more than made up for in the remarkably large type and generous spacing. A thumb index at the edge and alphabetical guides on both margin and cover are further contributions of the publisher to the convenience of the volume. The more usual method of distributing maxims alphabetically has been followed.

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## LEADING ARTICLES IN EXCHANGES.

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**The Green Bag.** Vol. 3. Boston Book Co.

No. 9. Lord Selborne (with portrait). Some singular Tenures. Legal Notes on Card-Playing (N. T. Horr). The Supreme Court of New Jersey. II. (J. Whitehead.) The Law and Authors in the Olden Time.

**Albany Law Journal.** Vol. 44. Weed, Parsons, & Co., Albany.

No. 15. Avoidable Causes of Delay and Uncertainty in our Courts. The Justices of the Peace in England.

**American Law Review.** Vol. 25. Review Publishing Co., St. Louis, Mo.

No. 5. A Summary of Quasi-Contracts. The Decisions of the Comptrollers. Is Unpaid Capital a Trust Fund in any Proper Sense? Land Transfer and Registration of Titles.

**Political Science Quarterly.** Vol. 6. Ginn & Co., N. Y.

No. 3. Efforts at Compromise. The North German Confederation. Economics in Italy. Railroad Stock-Watering. The Writ of Certiorari. General Booth's Panacea.

**Chicago Law Journal.** Vol. 2. N. S.

No. 9. American Bar Association. Constructive Assignments.

**Criminal Law Magazine.** Vol. 13. F. D. Ginn & Co. Jersey City.

No. 5. The Power of the Sovereignty to Regulate the Conduct of Citizens toward each Other.

**Canada Law Journal.** Vol. 27. J. E. Bryant Co. Toronto.

No. 15. Dower in Mortgaged Estates. Judicial Salaries. Legal Statistics for 1890.

**Washington Law Journal.** Vol. 19. Washington, D. C.

No. 41. The Clitheroe Case. Executory Contract for Performance of Personal Services by a Lawyer not Assignable. Rescission or Compensation—Knotty Problem presented for Solution.

**Scottish Law Review.** Vol. 7. Glasgow. No. 81. John Inglis.

**Law Journal.** Vol. 26. London.

No. 1341. Tenants holding over. English *Causes Célèbres*. 6. *Reg. v. Newman*.

**Law Times and Solicitors' Journal.** Vol. 25. Dublin.

No. 1287. Judgment against Husband as a Bar to an Action against Wife.